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30 NOV 1965

Dear Pat:

Thank you for your comments on our draft memorandum on the Chinese Communist Military Presence in North Vietnam. The paper was given circulation in draft form in the thought that you would be interested in our analysis of this most important intelligence question, and in the desire to obtain the views of your people on the technical data involved. Several of the comments in the annex to your letter have been incorporated into our paper.

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As you know, my responsibility is to alert higher authority to the possible significance of developments which may affect the national security. When we discern a pattern of developments which suggest a continuing growth of Chinese Communist military involvement in northern North Vietnam and adjacent areas of Communist China, it is clear that such a highly urgent intelligence question must be brought promptly to the attention of the policy-makers, together with our best judgment of what it may mean. A part of our obligation to the policy-maker is to offer our best estimate of the numbers of Chinese troops involved even though these must necessarily be tentative and expressed in a fairly broad range.

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I assure you that I very much appreciate the valuable technical support which your Agency has provided the intelligence production elements of the Community.

Sincerely,

(Signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn

Lt. General Marshall S. Carter
Director
National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

O/DDI: [] (24 November 1965)

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